

REMARKS

Claims 3-8 are currently pending. By this Amendment, the specification and claim 3 is amended and claims 6-8 are newly added. The specification is amended to correct a minor typographical error. Support for the amendment to claim 3 and newly added claim 6 may be found in Figs. 1, 8, 9 and 10. Reconsideration in view of the above-outlined amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over US Patent No. 6,394,421 to Henly. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Henly discloses a windlass winch 100 having a gypsy 103. The gypsy 103 has two jaws provided by separate gypsy halves 105 and 106. The jaws 105 and 106 form a radially inwardly tapering groove for receiving and gripping the rope and/or chain. As shown in the Figs. 2, figures, the jaws 105 and 106 are circular with a planar exterior portion with a raised inner portion. The raised inner portion has a polygonal shape. A series of teeth are spaced along the upper surface of the raised inner portion. The raised inner portion includes several projections that extend towards the edge of the planar portion. The teeth extend to the edge of these projection.

By contrast, amended claim 3 is directed to a chain wheel part with a disk having a central portion, a perimeter and a substantially planar peripheral portion surrounding the central portion between the central portion and the perimeter of the disk. The planar peripheral portion lies in a plane and the central portion being displaced from the plane. A plurality of teeth are provided that are adapted to drive a rope. Each tooth extends from the central portion. Each tooth does not extend to the perimeter of the disk. Each tooth having a tooth thickness. A plurality of spines are provided that are adapted to drive a chain. The spines are positioned on at least some of the teeth at an outer most extremity of the teeth. The spines extending down from the central portion across at least a portion of the planar peripheral portion. Each spine has a spline thickness that is substantially the same as the tooth thickness.

Henly does not disclose the subject matter of amended claim 3. Henly does not disclose the claimed teeth and splines. In particular, Henly does not disclose a plurality of spines that are positioned on at least some of the teeth at an outer most extremity of the teeth where the spines extend downwardly from the central portion across at least a portion of the planar peripheral portion and each spine has a spline thickness that is substantially the same

as the tooth thickness. The projecting portions of Henly cannot be construed as the claimed splines because the thickness of these portions is significantly larger than the thickness of the teeth. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that Henly does not anticipate the subject matter of claim 3. Claims 4 and 5 depend from claim 3 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Newly added claim 6 discloses a chain wheel part. The chain wheel part includes a disk having a central portion, a perimeter and a substantially planar peripheral portion surrounding the central portion between the central portion and the perimeter of the disk. The planar peripheral portion lies in a plane. The central portion is displaced from the plane. A plurality of teeth extend from the central portion. Each tooth does not extend to the perimeter of the disk. A plurality of spines are positioned on at least some of the teeth at an outer most extremity of the teeth. The spines extend downwardly from the central portion across at least a portion of the planar peripheral portion. Each spine has an upper surface and downwardly extending side surfaces. A majority of the upper surface is positioned below the central portion.

Henly does not disclose the subject matter of newly added claim 6. Henly does not disclose the claimed teeth and splines. In particular, Henly does not disclose a plurality of spines that are positioned on at least some of the teeth at an outer most extremity of the teeth where the spines extend downwardly from the central portion across at least a portion of the planar peripheral portion. Each spine has an upper surface and downwardly extending side surfaces whereby a majority of the upper surface is positioned below the central portion. The upper surface of the teeth in Henly are not positioned below the central portion. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that Henly does not anticipate the subject matter of claim 6. Claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 6 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.


Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based upon Henly are respectfully requested.

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Applicant respectfully submits that the claim defines subject matter, which is patentable over the prior art of record. Should any issues require further resolution, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney to discuss and resolve the issues. Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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